

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

July 3, 2026



Last Sunday was the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, two of the most eminent leaders of the early Church. Indeed they are often referred to as pillars of the Church. Despite having this prestigious status, however, they had very different backgrounds: Peter was a humble fisherman, whilst Paul was born into a family of Pharisees - the leaders of the Jewish faith.

Peter was an apostle of Jesus Christ and was the first pope of the Church. After Christ's death and ascension, Peter preached the Gospel to the Gentiles and performed miracles in the name of the God. Eventually, he was imprisoned and sentenced to death. He died in Rome, where he was crucified upside down because he declared himself not worthy to die in the same way as Christ. Peter is often depicted holding keys, which symbolize the keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

Paul, on the other hand, was a staunch Jew who persecuted Christians. He converted to Christianity one day while on the road to Damascus. After his conversion, he became a missionary and took the Gospel to Asia Minor. He made several missionary journeys and also spent several years in prison. Paul is noted for his inspirational writings, including his famous letters to the Corinthians, the Romans, the Colossians etc. Like St. Peter, Paul died in Rome.

In addition to their backgrounds, Peter and Paul are known for having very different attributes. Peter represents stability, tradition and ecclesial authority - the 'rock' upon whom Christ built his Church. Paul, however, embodies the Church's missionary zeal and theological depth. Together they personify the fullness of the Gospel: Peter grounding us in unity and solid faithfulness to Christ, and Paul urging us in outward proclamation, courage and conversion.

Celebrating this feast day is a way of emphasising the Church's desire for unity and recognition that all of the faithful have a part to play in the spreading of the Gospel message. This is absolutely a description of the Catholic life and mission of JFK. We provide opportunities for our students to learn about their faith and practise it through prayer and worship, but, through our commitment to Youth Ministry, we also prioritise opportunities for our students to be evangelisers, spreading the 'good news' of their faith with others.

Young Catholic Influencer Award



On Thursday, five Year 9 pupils proudly represented the school at the Young Catholic Influencer Awards, held at Cathedral Hall, Westminster. The event brought together pupils from Catholic schools across the country to showcase projects inspired by their faith and a commitment to making a positive difference in society. Our pupils represented the school with enthusiasm, professionalism and a genuine passion for serving others.

Over the past six weeks, the group have been researching the growing demand for food banks and the impact that the cost of living crisis has had on individuals and families within our local communities. They explored the reasons why more people are relying on food banks and considered how, as young Catholics, they could respond to this issue by putting their faith into action. Their project focused not only on raising awareness but also on identifying practical ways that they could support those most in need.

As part of their preparation, the pupils welcomed a representative from a St Albans food bank into school earlier this month. She spoke about the vital work carried out by volunteers, the increasing number of people seeking support, and the challenges faced by food banks in meeting demand. Her visit inspired the pupils to think creatively about how they could help, and they began planning activities that will support the food bank while encouraging others in our school community to live out the values of Catholic Social Teaching through acts of charity and solidarity.

At yesterday's awards, the pupils confidently presented their project to a panel of judges, explaining both the issue they had researched and how their proposed actions were rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the call to care for the poor and vulnerable. Although the group did not progress to the final, they should be incredibly proud of their achievement. They spoke with confidence, maturity and compassion, demonstrating an excellent understanding of both the social issue and their faith. Mr Neves and I were extremely proud of the way they represented themselves and the school throughout the day. Well done to Niamh, Jude, Allegra, Iaryna and Nasri!

Mr Sitkowski- RE Department



MUSIC

On the Decks



Last Tuesday On The Decks came in to school and gave an assembly to Years 8 and 9 about DJing and Music Production. After assembly each class had a 20 minute workshop with one of the tutors and had the chance to learn the first steps. Some teachers also enjoyed the morning ! To sign up for 1:1 DJ lessons in school please visit their website [Home | OTD Studios & Academy](#).

Monday saw our long awaited Summer Concert ! Many different ensembles rehearsed during the day and then returned at 7pm to entertain family and friends. The hall was packed and every act received huge applause and appreciation from the audience. From solo instrumental pieces on flute and clarinet, to classical and music theatre singing , to rock bands, the chamber choir and the orchestra . From Vivaldi to Chopin, from Lin-Manuel Miranda to the Arctic Monkeys - there really was something for everyone . Well done to all the performers, you showed us all incredible talent and team work.

Thursday morning was Year 7 House Music and time for the soloists from each house to perform. Ms Murray was our independent judge and the winning house will be announced ahead of the Year 7 assembly next week. Congratulations to everyone who performed - we were treated to guitar solos, piano, drums and singing . Performers demonstrated the time and effort put in to practise and preparation for the event. Congratulations Year 7 !



Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department



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LIBRARY

Library Celebration



A couple of weeks ago it was an absolute pleasure to host the annual Library Celebration with students who were celebrated for their enjoyment of the Library throughout the year.

All those invited had taken part in competitions, borrowed lots of books, read consistently throughout the year and had been wonderful members of the Library community, so it was very special to celebrate these achievements with Mr Neves and English teachers Mr Littlejohn and Mrs Davies. The students picked a new book as a prize (Agatha Christie was the most popular!) and were encouraged to keep enjoying the Library as they enter a new academic year.

As the term draws to an end we're looking forward to Picnic and Pick A Book next Monday lunch time when we'll be taking the Library to the side field and offering free books to everyone. Just before we break up, staff are invited to pick a book (or two, or three) for summer and enjoy strawberries and cream - think Wimbledon but minus the tennis!

Finally, a key take away from my interactions with the students this year has been the importance of family support in relation to reading. Actions which take minutes - conversations about what your child is enjoying reading or which podcasts they're enjoying listening to and letting them see you read - have a positive and lasting impact on their reading journey!

Mrs Powell - Librarian



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CAREERS

Future Smart Careers Apprenticeship Workshops



Students across Years 8, 9 and 12 recently had the opportunity to learn more about the exciting world of apprenticeships during a visit from Suzy Ross of Future Smart Careers.

The day began with an engaging assembly for Years 8 and 9, where students were introduced to apprenticeships as a valuable post 16 and 18 pathway. Suzy challenged common misconceptions and highlighted the wide range of industries and career opportunities available through apprenticeships, helping students to understand how they can earn, learn and gain valuable workplace experience at the same time.

Our students had some great feedback and questions following on from the assembly so we have created [a follow up guide](#).

Year 12 students then took part in two interactive workshops designed to prepare them for applying to apprenticeship programmes. The first session focused on how to search for and identify high quality apprenticeship opportunities, with practical advice on where to look, what employers are seeking, and how to make informed career choices.

The second workshop concentrated on succeeding in the recruitment process. Students gained an insight into employer expectations and took part in a hands-on assessment centre activity, allowing them to experience the types of tasks and exercises used by many leading apprenticeship providers. The practical session gave students the chance to develop their teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills while building confidence for future applications.

The workshops were informative, engaging and provided students with practical tools to help them make well informed decisions about their future careers. We would like to thank Suzy for sharing her expertise and inspiring our students to explore the many opportunities that apprenticeships can offer.

Mrs Jenkins - Careers



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SIXTH FORM

Year 11 into 12 Transition Day



This week, we were delighted to welcome our Year 11 students as part of our Sixth Form Transition Days.

The programme began with an evening Meet and Greet, where we welcomed many of our external applicants to JFK Sixth Form. This informal event gave students the opportunity to experience our school community, ask questions and meet current students before joining us in September. A huge thank you goes to three of our Year 12 students, who generously gave up their evening to share their experiences of Sixth Form life, as well as our Student Leadership Team, who were on hand to provide tours and ensure everyone received a warm JFK welcome.

The following day, we welcomed over 100 prospective students for a full transition day. Students heard from Mr Joyce and Mr Wainman before taking part in a range of transition activities designed to help them prepare for Sixth Form study. Throughout the day, they also attended subject taster sessions, giving them the opportunity to meet teachers, experience lessons and gain a deeper understanding of their chosen courses.

The atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic, with The Bridge buzzing with conversations about subjects, future aspirations and Sixth Form life. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, many commenting on the welcoming environment, engaging sessions and enthusiasm of both staff and students.

Thank you to every member of staff who contributed to making these two days such a success. Your support, enthusiasm and willingness to share your expertise ensured that our prospective students left excited and confident about beginning their Sixth Form journey at JFK.

Mr Wainman- Sixth Form



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CELEBRATING SPORT IN PE AT JFK

A FANTASTIC YEAR OF **ACHIEVEMENT**, **TEAMWORK** AND SCHOOL **SPRIT!**

WE ARE TEAM PE AT JFK!

DECORUM DANCE PODIUM FINISH!

NETBALL CUP, PLATE & LEAGUE WINNERS!

U14 BOYS ATHLETICS REGIONAL WINNERS!

U14 GIRLS ATHLETICS 3RD REGIONAL!

FOOTBALL CUP, PLATE & LEAGUE WINNERS!

GYM & DANCE SHOWCASE WEEK

GAELIC FOOTBALL U16 REGIONAL WINNERS!

ROUNDERS DISTRICT LEAGUE WINNERS!

Y9 DISTRICT TENNIS WINNERS!

HOUSE EVENTS FOR ALL!
COMPETE. PARTICIPATE. HAVE FUN!

THE SUPER CURRICULUM
Almost 40 Year 7 & 8 students completed the programme – building knowledge, confidence and a love for learning!

6 LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Students led, organised and inspired across school events and competitions.

MAKE MEMORIES. BUILD CHARACTER. BE PROUD.

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE. TOGETHER WE GROW. TOGETHER WE ARE TEAM PE!

#TEAMPE #PROUD #JFKSPORT

PE Department



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GENERAL NOTICES

Ahead of the summer break we would like to share an important message from our Director of Public Health Sarah Perman.

Dear Parent, Carer

The number of children with measles has increased since the start of the year, with most cases in unvaccinated children aged 10 years and under. Measles is a very infectious illness which can make children very unwell and sometimes leads to serious complications. Sadly, two children in England have died from measles in 2026.

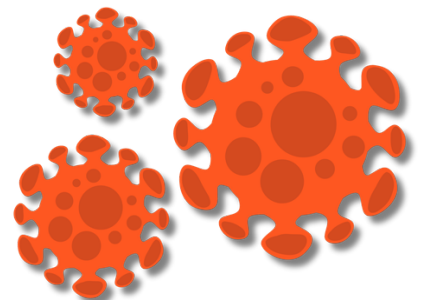
In Hertfordshire we have had outbreaks of measles in some of our schools and cases of measles are increasing. I am therefore asking that parents take the following actions:

- Check your child's red book or the NHS App to make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations.
- If your child has missed one or both doses of MMR, please contact your GP practice to arrange an appointment.
- You can also contact your local Community & School Aged Immunisation Service who run vaccination sessions for all ages. Details can be found here:
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/hertfordshire-and-east-anglia-community-and-school-age-immunisations-35/>
- If your child is ill and you are worried it might be measles, check symptoms of measles here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles>. If you need help, please phone your GP or 111 and follow their advice.

An alternative vaccine is available for those who want to avoid pork products. You can find out about this when booking an appointment. The MMR vaccination is safe and free in the NHS and highly effective in protecting children from three serious diseases, Measles, Mumps and Rubella."

Yours faithfully

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health
Hertfordshire County Council



GENERAL NOTICES

Appointments During School

Please try to avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, please alert the Year Team via email with confirmation of the appointment letter/email/screenshot at least 24 hours in advance.

If your child does need to leave for a pre-arranged medical appointment please ensure that they are aware of the time and date of the appointment and are instructed to be ready in reception to be collected. There have been a number of occasions recently whereby the office staff have had to search for a student in order for them to be picked up.

Illness During the School Day

We have seen an increase in students calling parents prior to seeking medical attention at school. Any student feeling unwell during the school day should report to Student Services where they will be seen by a medically trained member of staff. Please do impress upon your children the importance of the school contacting home if it is required during the school day. It can cause parents unnecessary worry which we would like to avoid.

Absence	 
Year 7	01442 229105 year7@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 8	01442 229124 year8@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 9	01442 229131 year9@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 10	01442 229132 year10@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 11	01442 229136 year11@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Sixth Form	01442 229137 6thform@jfk.herts.sch.uk

If your son/daughter is going to be absent due to illness please telephone the school absence line by 9.00am on each day of absence



[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school



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EXAMS



Guidance for parents, carers and students about access arrangements



WHAT ARE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS?

- Access arrangements allow students with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access an exam.
- They allow students to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the exam.



HOW WILL THE PROCESS START?

- Parents and carers should let the SENCo know as soon as possible if their child has additional needs. Good and open communication is important.
- Students in further education should record their additional needs on the college's enrolment form.
- The SENCo will work with teachers and the student to identify possible arrangements.
- Various access arrangements are available. For example, support for students who have difficulties with reading, writing, speed of working or concentration.
- Not all students with additional needs will require access arrangements. This depends on whether their difficulty affects their access to exams. Additional needs or a diagnosis alone do not entitle a student to access arrangements.



WHO WILL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT?

- If a student has learning difficulties, the school or college's appointed assessor must conduct the assessment to determine the need for access arrangements, such as 25% extra time.
- If an external assessor diagnoses a learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia or dyscalculia), the assessment can only be used as evidence for access arrangements if the assessor has liaised with the school or college and received the necessary access arrangements paperwork in advance of the assessment taking place.
- Specialists (for example, a medical consultant or a psychiatrist) are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis. They are **not** responsible for decisions about access arrangements.
- The school or college must decide which access arrangements a student has for their exams.
- Teachers must give evidence to show that an access arrangement is needed. The school or college will record how effective the arrangement is in the classroom, in internal tests or in mock exams.



WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- The school or college will have to apply for some arrangements.
- If a student has complex needs, a school or college can discuss their needs with the exam board.

FINALLY

Schools and colleges **must** follow the rules. They are inspected and if they are found to be breaking the rules, this will be malpractice.

**If you have any questions about access arrangements,
please speak to the school, college or SENCo.**



TRIPS 2026/27



A GENTLE REMINDER

**Monthly Instalments are due on the 1st of each month
for the following :**

- GCSE Geography F/T, 6th - 8th July 2026
- War Horse - Drama and History (Year 9, 10 and 12) - 15th July 2026
- Duke of Edinburgh 2026, Bronze and Silver
- Iceland 2027



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTH OF JULY

- Monday 6th July, Year 12 Work Experience
- Tuesday 7th July, Sports Presentation Evening , 7.00pm
- Wednesday 8th July, DofE Silver Expedition
- Thursday 9th July - New Year 7's Transition Day
- Thursday 9th July - GCSE and A Level Creative Exhibition
- Wednesday 15th July, Year 12 Festival
- Friday 17th July, End of Term, 12.35pm

FUTURE DATES

- Tuesday 1st September , INSET Day (School Closed to students)
- Wednesday 2nd September, Year 7's Only
- Thursday 3rd September, All students return



UPCOMING EVENTS



THE JOHN F KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CREATIVE EXHIBITION

206

MONDAY - 6TH JULY 4PM

D BLOCK GALLERY



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UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRED HEART RC CHURCH

SUMMER BBQ

food, fun & community for all!

 **SUNDAY
12TH JULY**
FROM 12PM

 **SACRED HEART
RC CHURCH,
BERKHAMSTED**
PARK STREET
HP41HX

 **GREAT FOOD**

 **BAR**

 **FOOTBALL**

 **BOUNCY CASTLE**

 **EMAIL TO BOOK:**
berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

Tickets

ADULTS	5-17 YEARS	UNDER 5'S
£10	£5	FREE



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UPCOMING EVENTS



**JOHN F KENNEDY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
PACEM IN TERRIS

School Trip to **FLORENCE, ITALY**



**5 DAY / 4 NIGHT TRIP
DURING OCTOBER HALF TERM 2027
22ND – 26TH OCTOBER 2027**



**OPEN TO:
YEAR 8 AND YEAR 9 STUDENTS**
Priority given to current Year 9 students
who have opted to take Food Preparation
and Nutrition at GCSE.



- Return flights from the UK to Pisa
- Airport and local transfers to excursions
- 4 nights Half Board accommodation
in multi-share for students



**FOOD, CULTURE
ADVENTURE!**

A SELECTION OF FOOD RELATED EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:



PIZZA MAKING



PASTA MAKING



**PARMESAN CHEESE
FACTORY TOUR & TASTING**



**OLIVE OIL FARM
TOUR & TASTING**



**SIGHTSEEING IN
FLORENCE & PISA**



**ICE CREAM MAKING
DEMONSTRATION**



**SOUVENIR SHOPPING
IN FLORENCE**

TOUR PACK INCLUDED!



FOOD. FRIENDS. MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!
DON'T MISS OUT!



SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS



At John F Kennedy Catholic School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we work hard to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and listened to within our school community.

Our safeguarding team plays a vital role in this work. The team works closely with students, families, staff and external agencies to promote a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Students and families can reach out to the safeguarding team for support. We recognise that parents and carers are key partners in safeguarding. We encourage families to familiarise themselves with our safeguarding approach, policies and procedures, which are available on the school website:

Safeguarding information and policies:

<https://www.jfk.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=82>

In addition, the school provides a range of supportive links and resources for students and families, covering areas such as mental health, online safety, wellbeing and external support services:

Support for students and families:

<https://www.jfk.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Support+for+students+and+families&pid=100>

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, no matter how small it may seem, we urge you to share it. Concerns can be raised confidentially by emailing:

staysafe@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Letting us know about concerns, however small they may seem, allows us to offer the right support when it is needed. Working closely with families helps us maintain a safe, inclusive and caring school community where every child can feel secure and valued.



ATTENDANCE

Supporting Every Student's Journey

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." — John 10:10

At the heart of our Catholic community is the belief that every child is a unique gift from God, blessed with individual gifts and talents. Our mission is to nurture the whole child—spiritually, academically, and emotionally—so they can flourish and thrive.

To truly experience "life to the full" within our school community, consistent attendance is vital. When your child is here, they aren't just attending lessons; they are building friendships, growing in faith, and developing the resilience they need for the future.

Working in Partnership

We understand that life can sometimes bring challenges that make school attendance difficult. Whether it is a health concern, anxiety, or a change in family circumstances, please know that you are not alone.

In line with the latest Department for Education guidance, we believe that attendance is a shared responsibility. Our goal is to work in partnership with families to remove any barriers your child may be facing.

How We Can Help

The best time to reach out is always the early stage. If you notice your child is reluctant to attend or is struggling, please don't wait for the situation to escalate.

- **Early Conversation:** A simple phone call to your child's Achievement Team can start a supportive dialogue.
- **Tailored Support:** We offer a range of internal pastoral support, from mentoring to counselling and mental health support.
- **Our Online Support Hub:** We have a dedicated Attendance page on our school website. This includes practical tips, links to external wellbeing resources, and a clear guide on how we work with families to improve attendance.

[Attendance JFA Website](#)

By working together we ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



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COMMUNITY

Are you looking for local activities and SEND services for a child or young person with SEND?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups. Some activities will also include discounts for families registered with a Herts Card (SEND).

We will be adding additional activities on a regular basis.
Find fun, inclusive activities your child will love – all in one place! [Explore the SEND community directory](#).

If there are any activities you know of or wish to see promoted through this directory, please email us on: SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Need and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

The SEND directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups, some activities will also include discounts for families registered for our Herts Card (SEND).

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory



STEVENSONS

Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our
St Albans Branch

Address:

131-135 Victoria Street,
St Albans,
AL1 3XS

Contact:

stalbanbranch@stevensons.co.uk

Please note we are a cashless branch.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30am - 5pm
Tuesday: 9:30am - 5pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9:30am - 5pm
Saturday: 9:30am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed

Online

Shopping online at www.stevensons.co.uk is easy!

You can select home delivery or opt for convenient Click & Collect from your local store.

Our in-stock items are typically dispatched within 48 hours.
Plus, with our 365-day return policy, you can shop with confidence knowing that returns are hassle-free.

In Store Opening Hours

Will be open for pre-booked fitting appointments from Monday 20th July - Friday 21st August.

We recommend booking a fitting appointment so we can offer you dedicated one-to-one service during the summer period.

Walk-in customers are welcome. Saturdays are a great option for visiting without an appointment, and our team will assist you as soon as they are available.

Please visit our website to check extended opening hours over the summer.



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